

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04

TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-06 /094 W

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R 181741Z MAY 76

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1194

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

ALL EC CAPITALS 2134

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PNOR, PGEN, EEC

SUBJECT: EC/ASEAN RELATINS

REF: (A) MANILA 6165, (B) SINGAPORE 2379, (C) USEC A-261 (JULY 3, 1975), (D) USEC A-467 (NOV 14, 1975)

1. ACCORING TO THE EC COMMISSION THE SECOND MEETING OF THE C/ASEAN JOINT STUDY GROUP (JSG), WHICH WAS TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN MANILA FROM MAY 10-12, WAS POSTPONED AT ASEAN REQUEST AND WILL HOPEFULLY BE RESCHED-

ULED FOR SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER, THOUGH NOVEMBER IS THOUGHT MORE LIKELY BY SOME OF OUR EC AND ASEAN CONTACTS.

2. IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT THE FIRST SESSION OF THE JSG TOOK PLACE IN

JUNE 1975 IN BRUSSELS (REFS C AND D). A GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS TOOK

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PLACE ON A WIDE RANGE OF FIELD OF POSSIBLE COOPERATION AND EXPERTS WERE

SELECTED TO LOOK MORE CLOSELY AT RAW MATERIALS, TRADE QUESTIONS (GSP),

INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS AND JOINT VENTURES. FURTHER ELABORATION OF THE
POSSIBILITIES IN THESE FIELDS WAS TO BE THE MAIN ITEM ON THE AGENDA
FOR THE SECOND SESSION, ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 1976 IN
MANILA.

THIS MEETING WAS POSTPONED AND THE MAY SESSION WAS TO HAVE BEEN THE
FIRST OFFICIAL GATHERING OF THE JSG SINCE JUNE 1975.

3. ACCORDING TO OUR EC COMMISSION AND ASEAN SOURCES HERE IN BRUSSELS,
THE SECOND SESSION HAD NOT BEEN DELAYED DUE TO ANY LACK OF POLITICAL
GOODWILL IN EC/ASEAN RELATIONS BUT RATHER BECAUSE OF PROBLEMS IN
THE BACK-UP ORGANIZATION FOR THE JSG ON THE ASEAN SIDE. WE UNDERSTAND
THERE ARE TWO PROBLEMS-- ONE PROCEDURAL AND THE OTHER SUBSTANTIVE.
PROCEDURALLY, THE RECENT ASEAN SUMMIT IN BALI DETERMINED THAT THE ACT-

IVITIES OF THE SPECIAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF ASEAN NATIONS
(SCCAN) OUGHT TO BE RATIONALIZED AND APPOINTED SEVERAL COMMITTEES
TO COVER VARIOUS AREAS. IT HAS NOT YET BEEN POSSIBLE TO
DETERMINE UNDER WHICH OF THESE COMMITTEES (I.E. EXTERNAL
RELATIONS OR TECHNICAL COOPERATION) THE EC/ASEAN JSG SHOULD
FALL AND UNTIL THIS MATTER IS SORTED OUT FULL ATTENTION
CAN'T BE GIVEN TO THE PREPARATORY WORK FOR THE JSG MEETING.
SUBSTANTIVELY THERE IS ALSO A PROBLEM CONCERNING THE NATURE OF MANY OF

THE COOPERATION PROJECTS THAT THE ASEAN SIDE HAS PRESENTED. MOST OF
THE PROJECTS SUGGESTED THUS FAR HAVE BEEN NATIONAL IN CHARACTER. THE
JSG IS MANDATED TO LOOK INTO REGIONALLY ORIENTED PROJECTS HOWEVER.
IT APPEARS THAT SOME ON THE ASEAN SIDE WERE ONLY RECENTLY BECOMING
AWARE OF THIS, AND THIS OVERSIGHT CONTRIBUTED TO A LACK OF
PREPARATION FOR THE SECOND JSG MEETING.

4. IN SUMMARY, OUR SOURCES REMAIN OPTIMISTIC THAT THIS DELAY IS A MINOR

MATTER, THAT EC/ASEAN RELATIONS ARE BASED ON SOLID FOUNDATIONS OF
POLITICAL GOODWILL, THAT THE CURRENT OBSTACLES WILL PROBABLY BE CLEARED

UP OVER THE SUMMER AND THAT THE SECOND SESSION OF THE JSG CAN TAKE PLACE
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IN MID-AUTUMN.
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